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## Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Poultry and Products

### Avian Influenza Preparedness Measures

**2005**

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**Report Highlights:**

On October 28, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers set up an avian influenza task force (AITF) in order to prepare for the possible spread of avian influenza (AI) from neighboring countries. The Government also approved the establishment of a reference laboratory for HPAI detection and the purchase of diagnostic materials and protective equipment. Earlier in the month, the State Veterinary Office (SVO) had banned the import of all live poultry and wild birds and their meat and products (except hermetically closed and heat-treated cans) coming from Croatia. The SVO also required the mandatory housing of all poultry and ordered special hygiene, feed, and water supply measures at poultry farms. During October, sales of both imported and locally produced poultry meat decreased dramatically because of the AI detections in Europe. Currently, there are no U.S. poultry exports to the BiH.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1]  
[BK]

On October 28, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers decided to form an avian influenza task force (AITF) in order to prepare for the spread of avian influenza (AI) from neighboring Croatia or other countries. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations will lead the AITF as the State Veterinary Office (SVO) comes under this ministry. The Government also approved the establishment of a reference laboratory for HPAI detection and the purchase of diagnostic materials and protective equipment. Additional funds were committed in case AI appears in BiH.

Upon detection of avian influenza in swans in neighbouring Croatia on October 22, the SVO made the decision to ban the import of all live poultry and wild birds and their meat and products (except hermetically closed and heat-treated cans) coming from Croatia. The SVO also decided to apply veterinary hygiene measures on the border with Croatia. This includes the requirement that all vehicles coming into BiH must be disinfected with chemical substances that destroy the virus. This measure was abandoned on October 23 because of the coming holidays (All Saints Day and Ramadan Bajram) when heavy border traffic was expected.

In addition to these measures in border areas, the SVO declared mandatory housing of all poultry and ordered special hygiene, feed, and water supply measures at poultry farms. It is forbidden to hold exhibitions, fairs, and other gatherings that include wild and domestic birds, as well as to hunt wild birds.

The veterinary inspectors have stepped up checks at the Bardaca fish farm, in the Sr bac municipality Republika Srpska and Hutovo Blato in Herzegovina (near Mostar). These locations are natural habitats for migratory birds and places where infection could possibly start.

The BiH Government has banned the import of all live poultry and wild birds, eggs for breeding and consumption, chilled and frozen poultry meat and wild bird meat, poultry meat and wild bird meat products, poultry and wild bird seamen, and products of animal (bird) origin intended for use in animal feed, industrial use and use in agriculture from the following countries: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, China, Laos, Pakistan, Russia, Thailand, Vietnam, Romania, Turkey, and Croatia.

The ban also applies to all products transported via the above-mentioned countries, regardless of the products' origin. The ban does not apply to hermetically closed and heat-treated cans of poultry meat and/or wild bird meat treated with Fo 3 and heat-treated egg products (dried, pasteurized, or sterilized eggs).

During October, sales of both imported and locally produced poultry meat dramatically decreased because of the AI detections in Europe. Currently, there are no U.S. poultry exports to the BiH.